

Foreword by  
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# THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Transparency  
for an Open World

Ann Florini  
Editor

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COLUMBIA



Krakatau, Indonesia.

Ikonos (GeoEye) one-meter resolution image, June 11, 2005

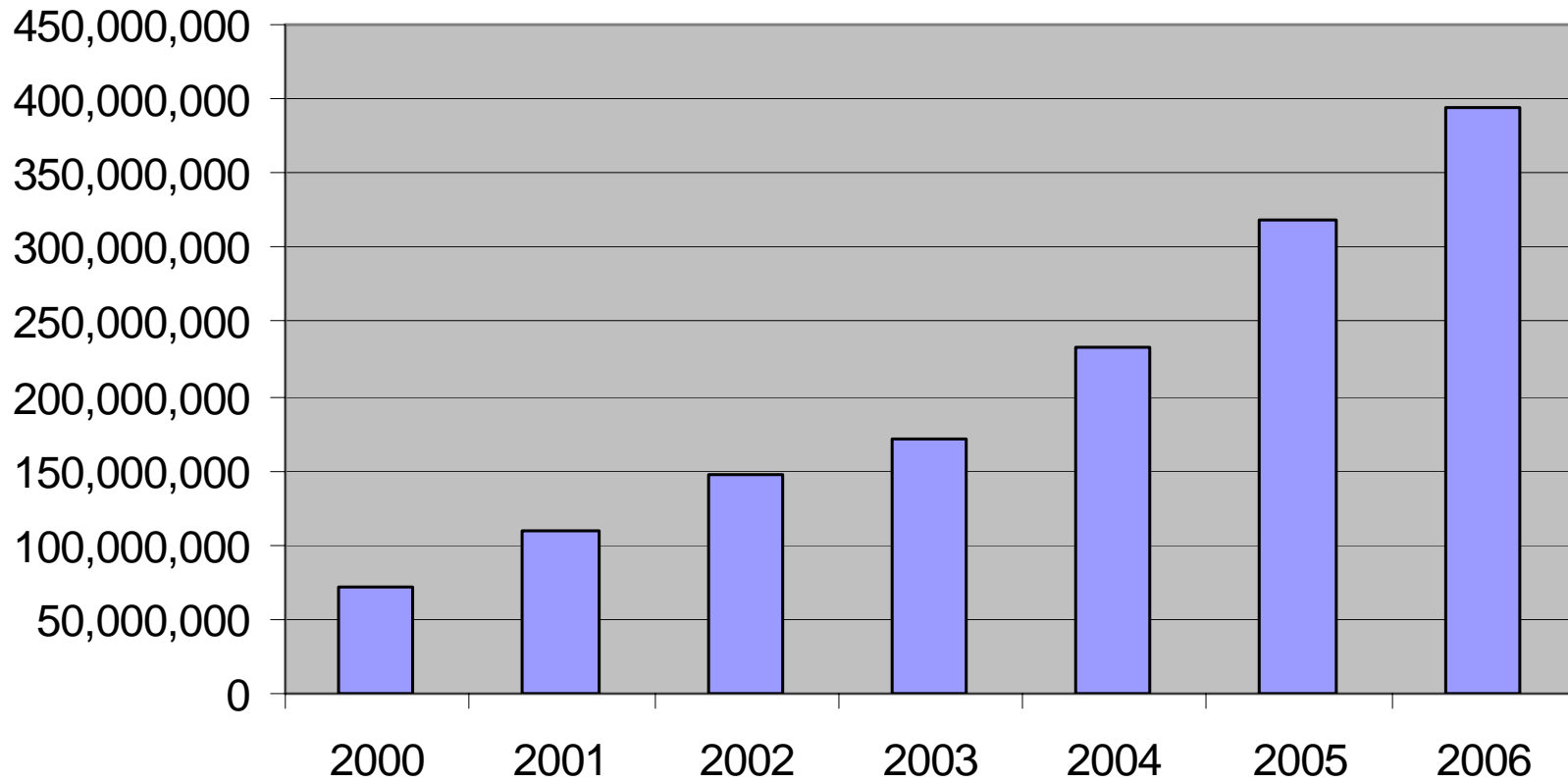


Satellite image of Chinese Launch Complex, Jiuquan, Gansu Province, China. IKONOS satellite one-meter resolution image, October 06, 2005.

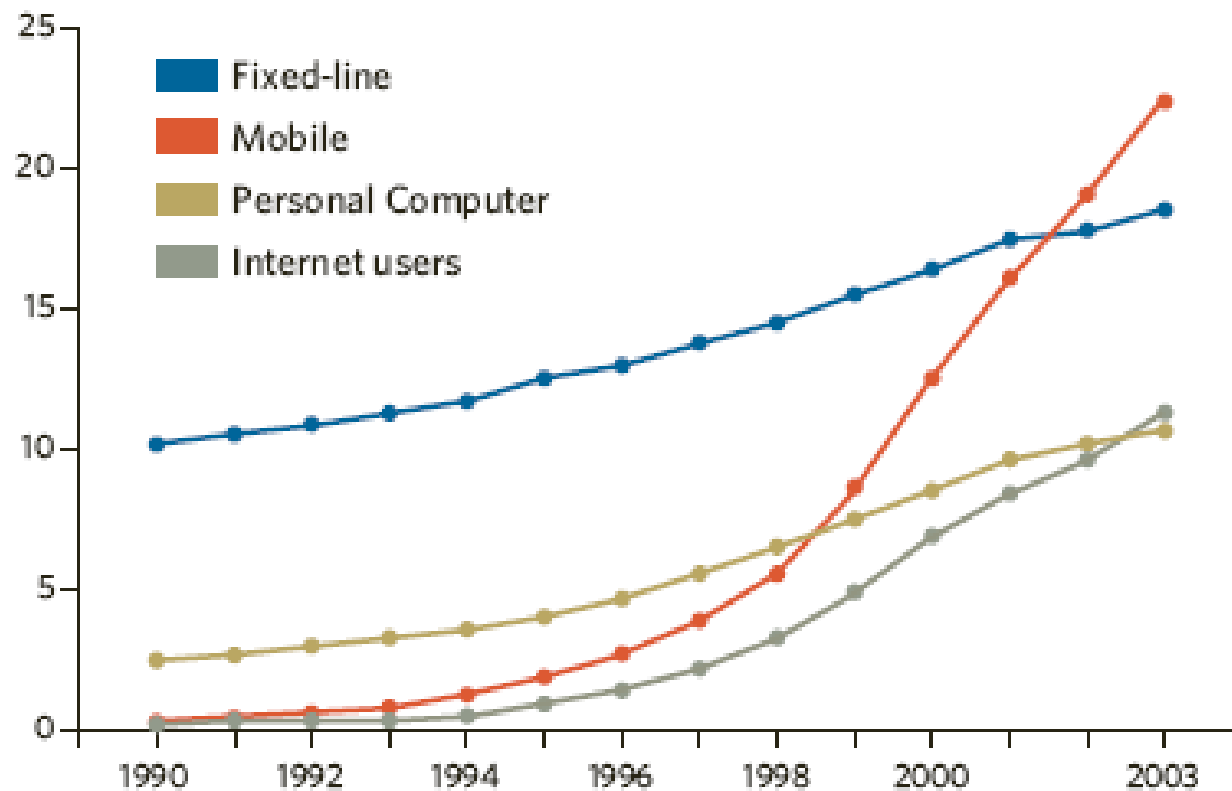
# The transparency transformation

- Technology
- Ideas and norms
- Power struggle

## Number of Internet Hosts 2000 - 2006



Data from Internet Systems Consortium, Inc. Available online at <http://www.isc.org/index.pl?/ops/ds/host-count-history.php>



Proportion of world population with telephone subscriptions, personal computers and internet connections, 1990-2003 (Percentage)

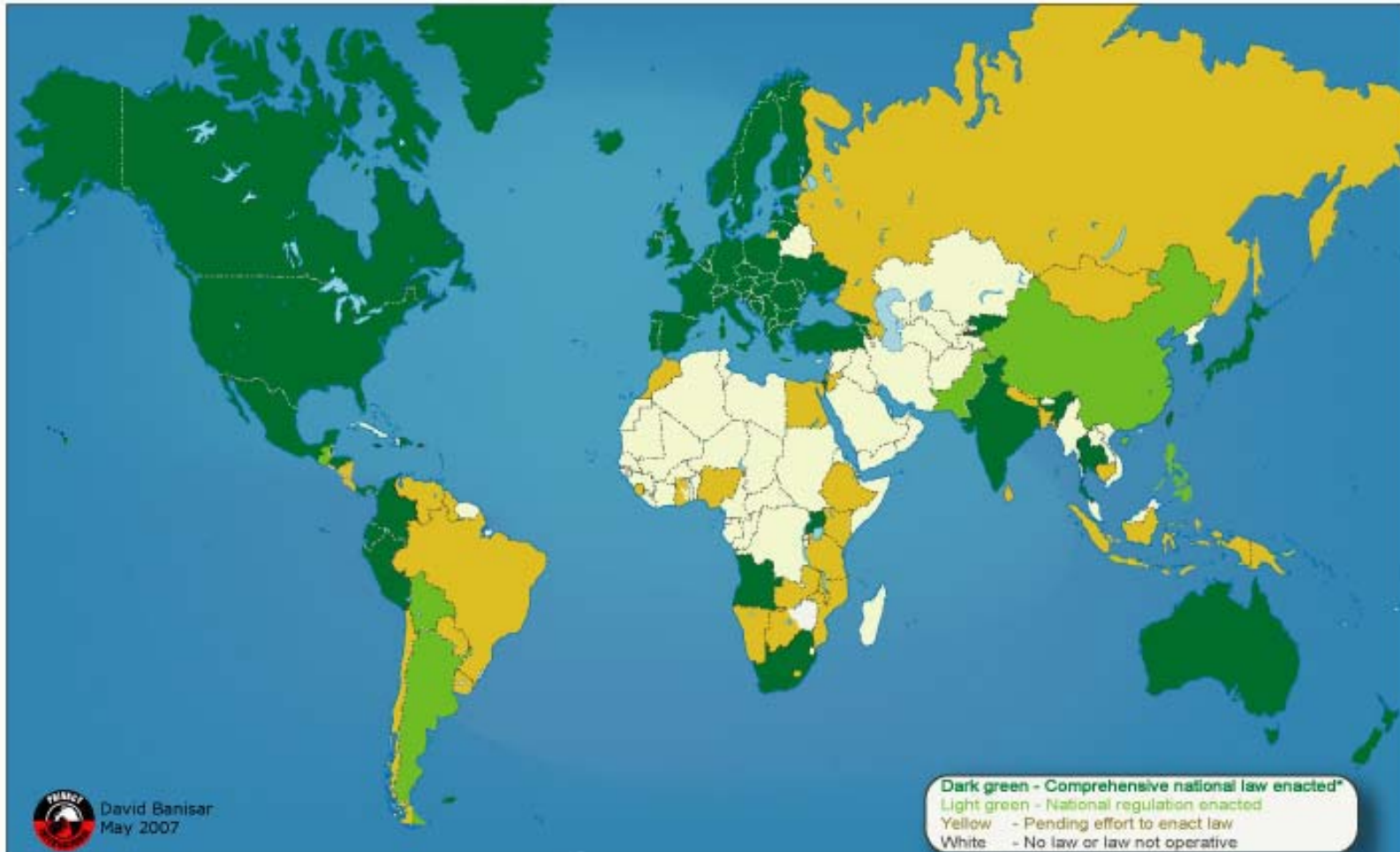








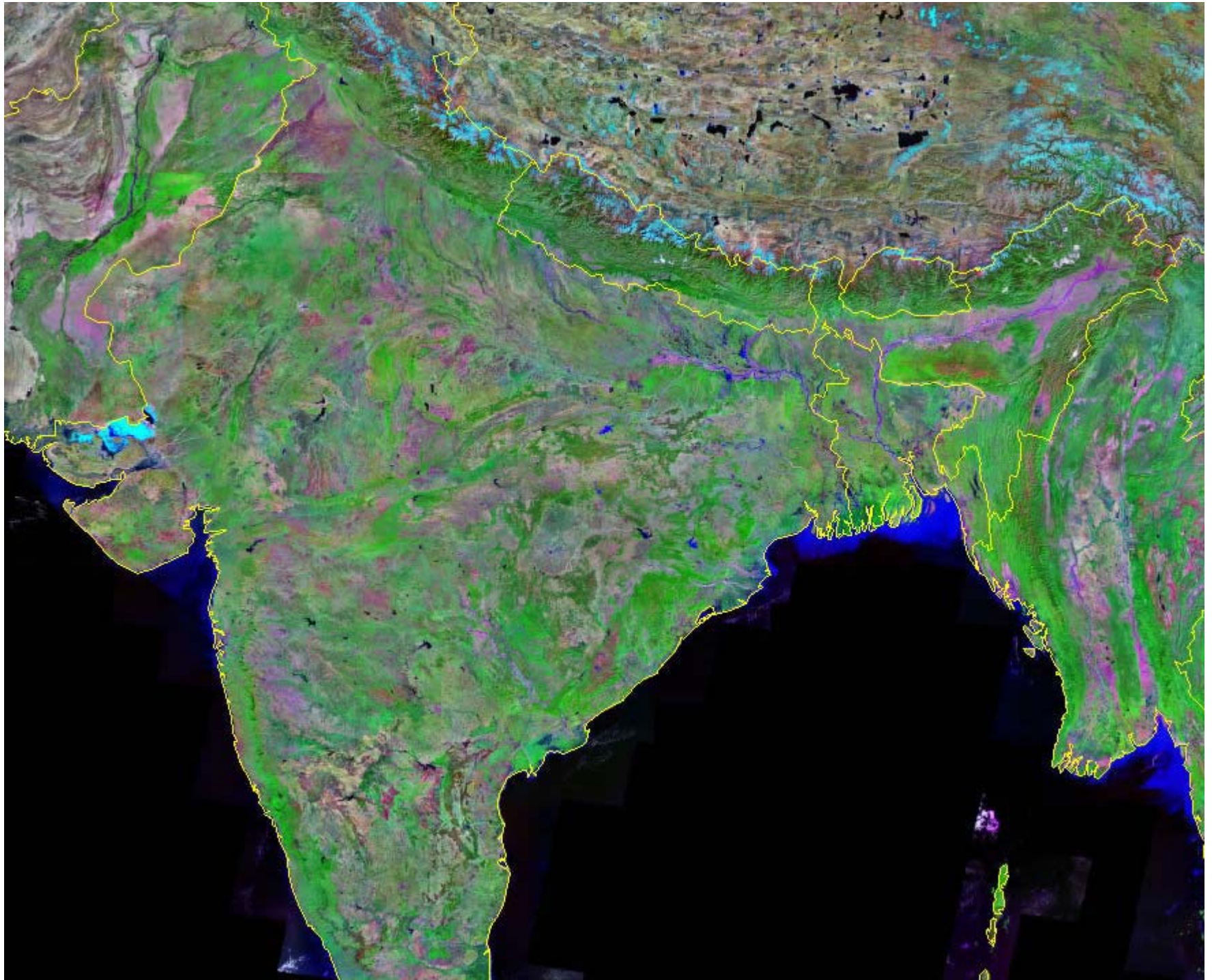
## National Freedom of Information Laws 2007



\*Not all national laws have been implemented or are effective. See [www.privacyinternational.org/foi/survey](http://www.privacyinternational.org/foi/survey) for analysis and updates of the laws and practices



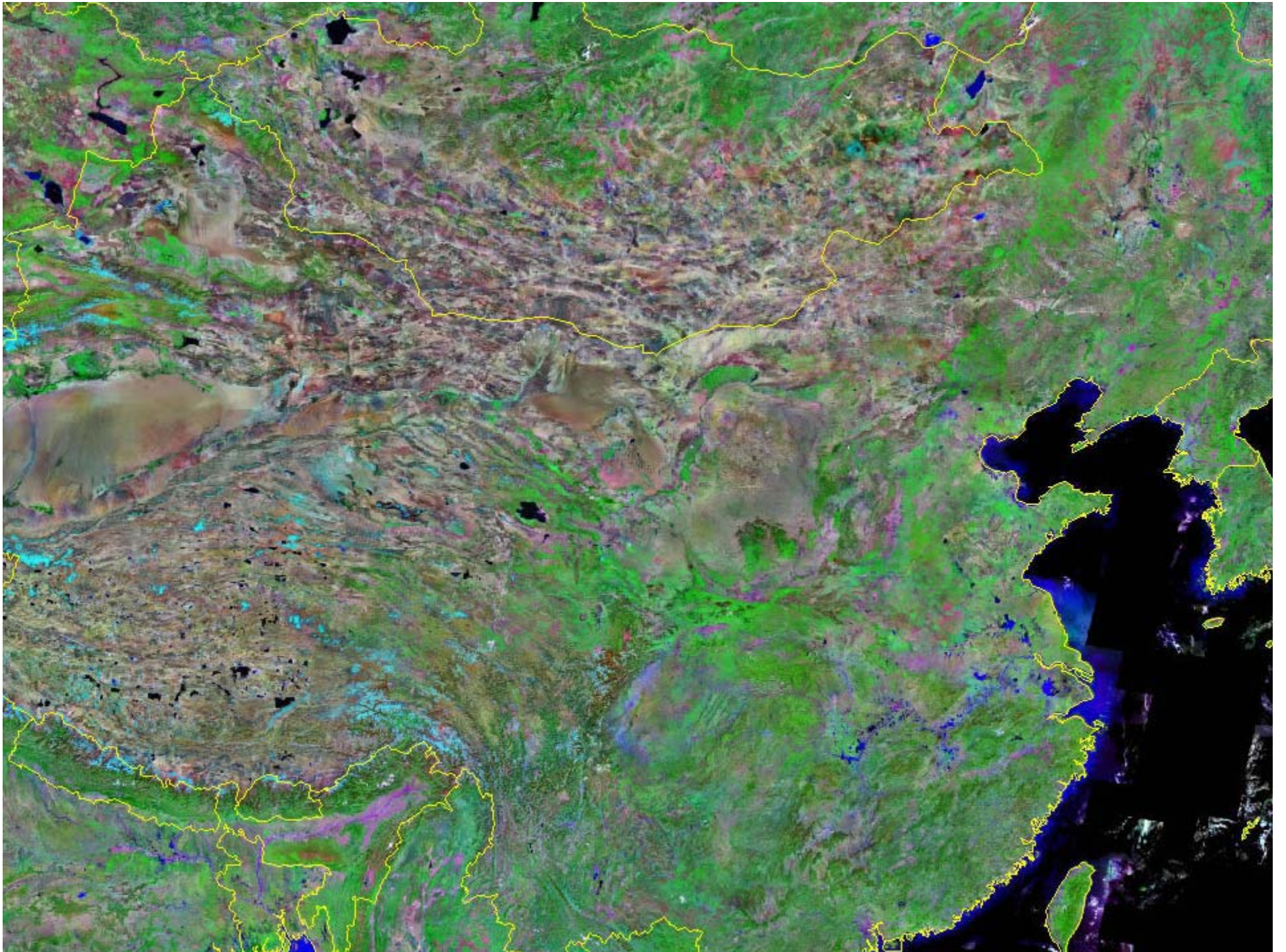




# MKSS







# China

- April 2007 adoption of “Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on Open Government Information”
- Take effect May 2008
- Apply to government agencies at all levels
- Promulgated by State Council



# Genesis of China's OGI

- 1998 Organic Law on Villager's Committees
- Growing urban demand for info about business, the economy, housing market, financial markets
- 1999 "Leading Group on National Informatization" to create technology platform
- 2001 WTO commitments
- Local experimentation

# Limits to China's OGI

- No clear presumption of disclosure
- “State Secrets” exemption undefined
- No truly independent review
- Potential conflicts with State Secrets Law, Archives Law (30 years of secrecy), Civil Servants Law (protection of undefined “work secrets”)

# “regulation by revelation”



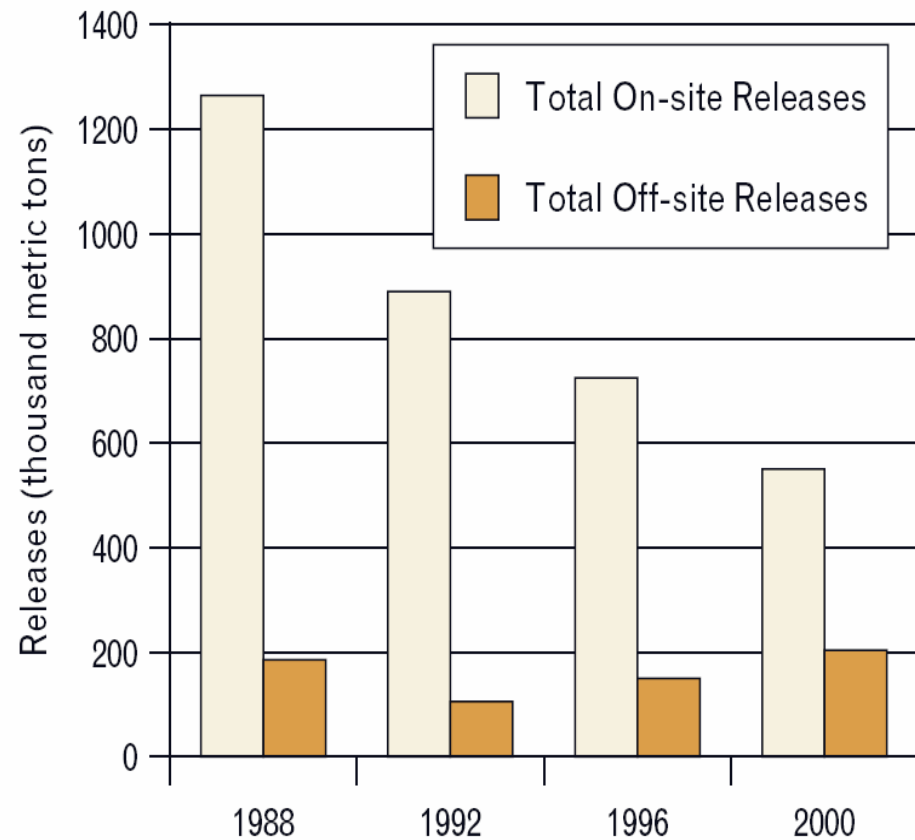
# Environmental concerns have driven international transparency norms

- 1992: Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration:  
“...At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes....”
- 1998: Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

# Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)

- TRI created by US EPCRA legislation in 1986
- Requires standardized disclosure of emissions at facility level
- Dramatic impact on emissions (many reasons)
- Supplemented by [www.scorecard.org](http://www.scorecard.org)
- Replicated as “PRTRs” around the world

**Toxic Releases in the United States, 1988–2000**



Source: USEPA 2003

# TRI Impact on Pollution

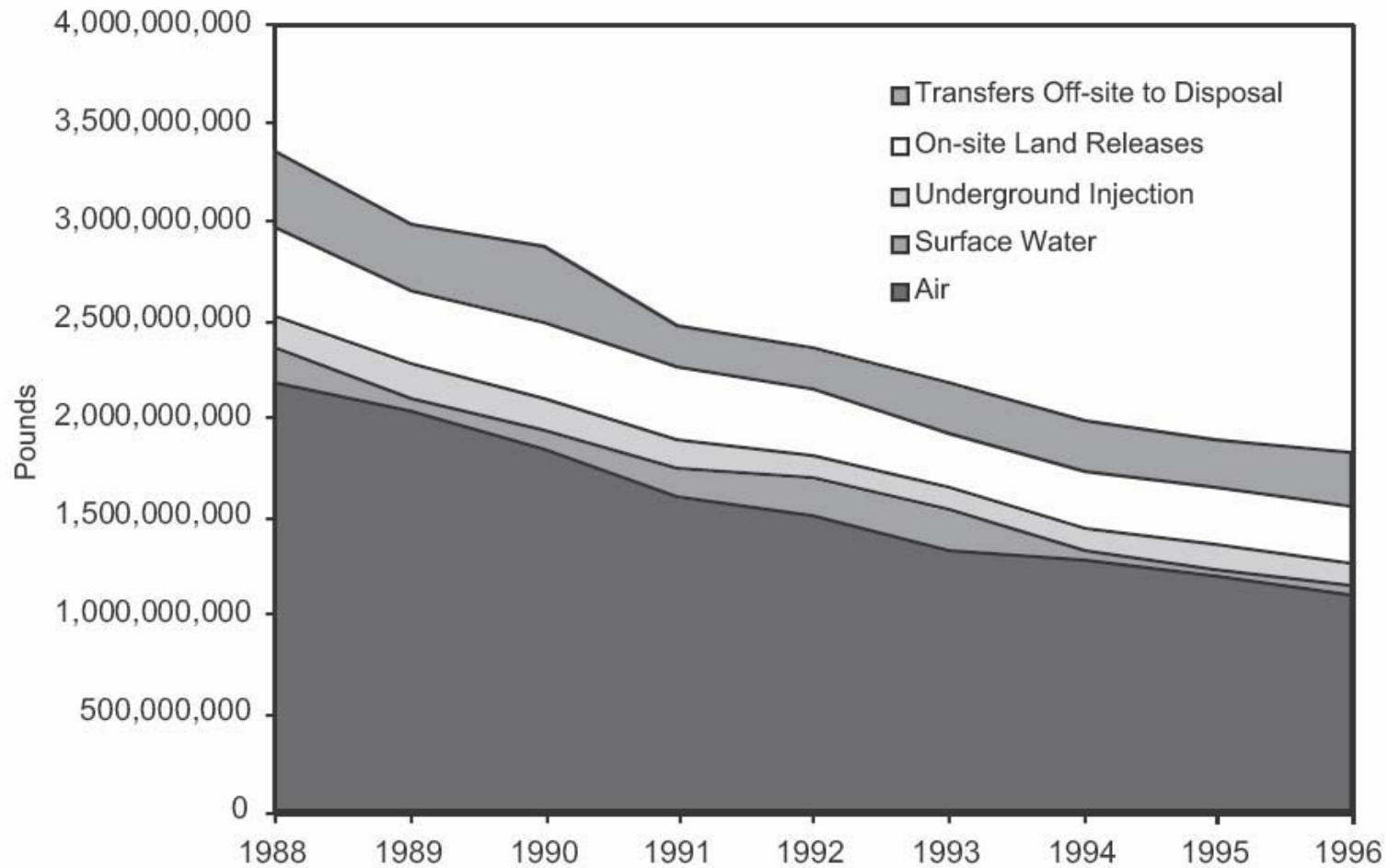
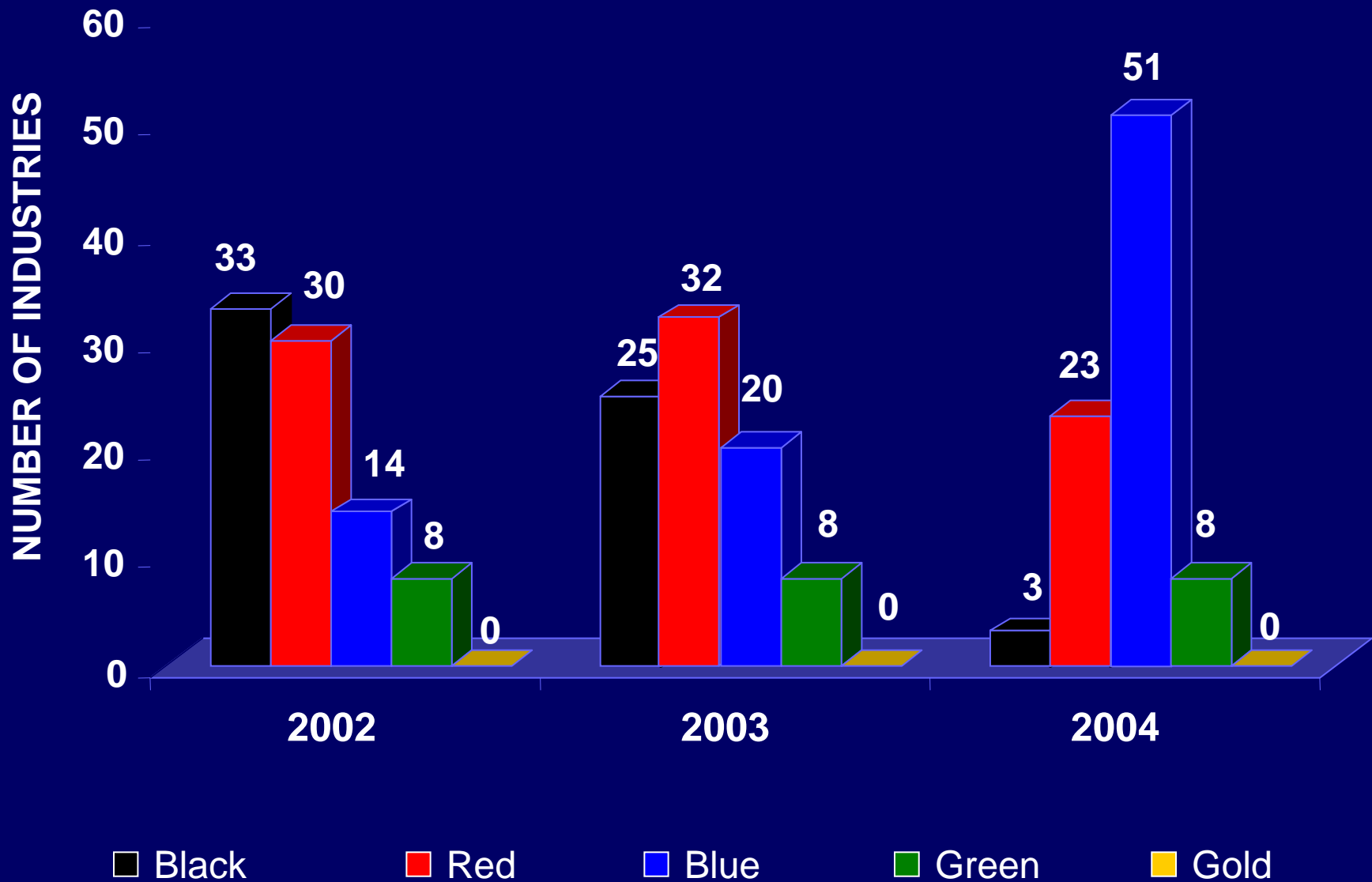


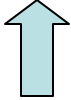


Figure 3-1. Distribution of TRI On-site and Off-site Releases, 1988-1996



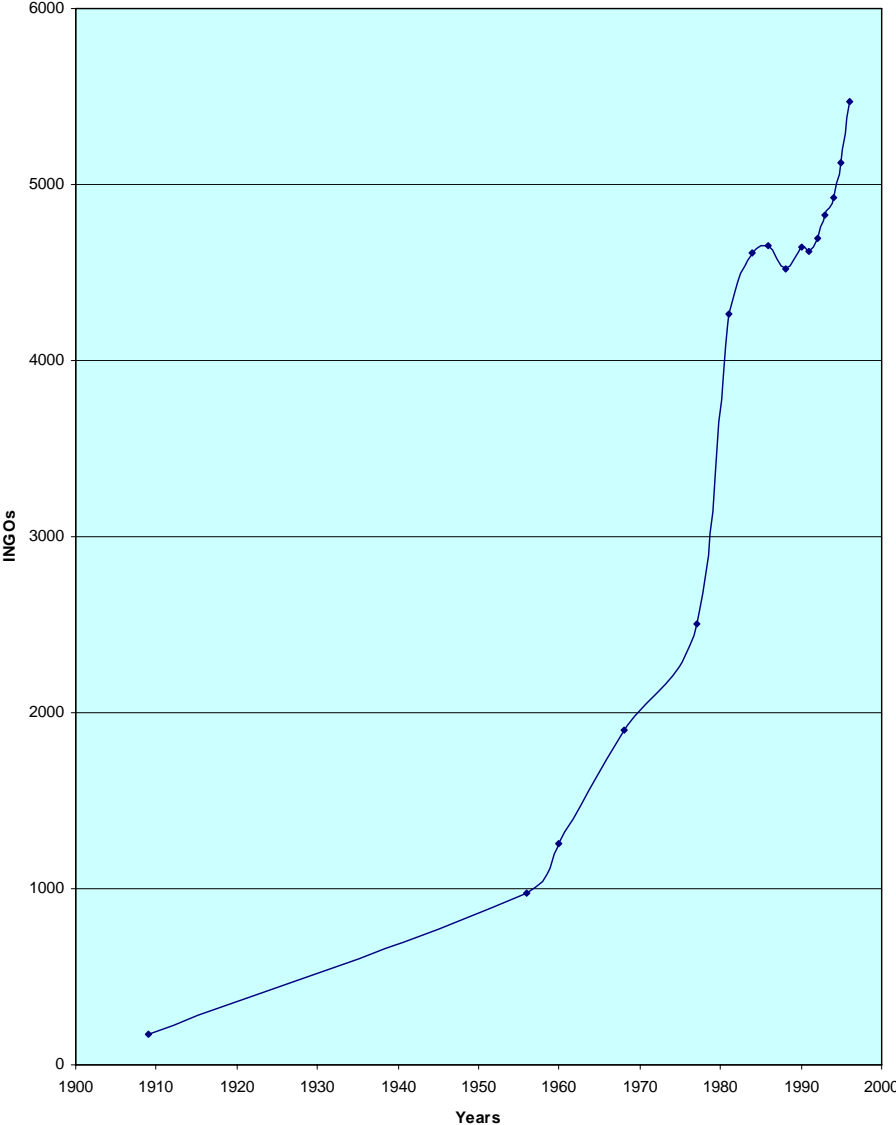
# PROPER 2002 - 2004



# Spread of transparency

-  FOIAs
-  IFI disclosure policies
-  Corporate non-financial disclosure

### Growth of International NGOs



# Why transparency

- Effectiveness and efficiency of government, “right to know is right to live”
- Regulatory tool
- Democratic right to know

Whither Transparency?